

Rural Clean Energy Work Group

Meeting #4

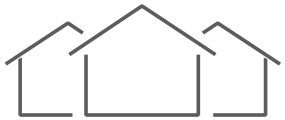
Energy Division

JANUARY 26, 2022



Washington State
Department of
Commerce

We strengthen communities



**HOUSING
HOMELESSNESS**



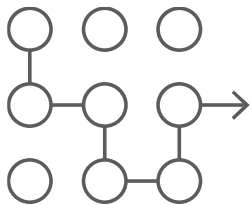
INFRASTRUCTURE



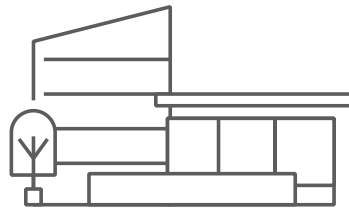
**BUSINESS
ASSISTANCE**



ENERGY



PLANNING



COMMUNITY FACILITIES



**CRIME VICTIMS &
PUBLIC SAFETY**



**COMMUNITY
SERVICES**

Virtual Meeting Reminders



- The presentation portions of the meeting will be recorded
- Raise your hand, use the chat box and then unmute to ask questions or contribute to the discussion



- If possible, turn on your camera when you are speaking
- Don't forget to mute yourself when you are not speaking
- Reach out to **Queenie Karlik** for technical help

Agenda

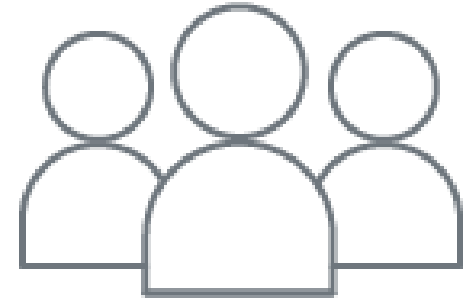
- Welcome and introductions
- Community agreements and meeting guidelines
- Timeline for report
- Review guiding principles and recommendations
- Breakout groups:
 - Edit guiding principle
 - Review draft recommendations

Goals of Today's Workshop

- Edit guiding principles
- Brainstorm policy outcomes and specific recommendations
- Review report timeline

Community Agreements

- Be present!
- Step up, step back
- Respond to and challenge ideas, not people
- Protect confidences: Stories stay, lessons leave
- Avoid jargon, acronyms, and industry language - use inclusive language that is accessible for people with varying inside knowledge



Work Group Timeline Detail

Rural Clean Energy Legislative Report		
Task Description	Timing	Focus
Kickoff Meeting #1	Early October	Introductory meeting: history of CEF, background, context, proviso, roles and responsibilities
Meeting #2	November	Technologies, programs and investments that address rural community priorities and align with the 2021 State Energy Strategy
		Breakout groups Report back, identify emerging ideas and themes
Meeting #3	December	Federal opportunities, and recommended strategies for leveraging federal funds with CEF; policies that dismantle barriers; review draft recommendations
Meeting #4	January 2022	Finalize recommendations and strategic plan
Public comment	February/March	Opportunity for public comment in response to recommendations from work group
Commerce process	March-June	Circulate report for internal review, and for OFM and Governor's office review and processing

Next Steps

Internal/External	Milestone	Deadline
Internal	Kickoff Meeting	1/14/2022
External	Final Work Group Meeting	1/26/2022
Internal	Outline	1/30/2022
External	Public comment form and additional research	12/2021-2/25/2022
External	Tribal Info Session	2/15/2022
Internal	Draft 1	3/1/2022
External	Public comment period	3/15/2022
External	Work Group Review	3/29/2022
Internal	Commerce process	4/9/2022-6/9/2022
Internal	Publish/Submit	6/30/2022

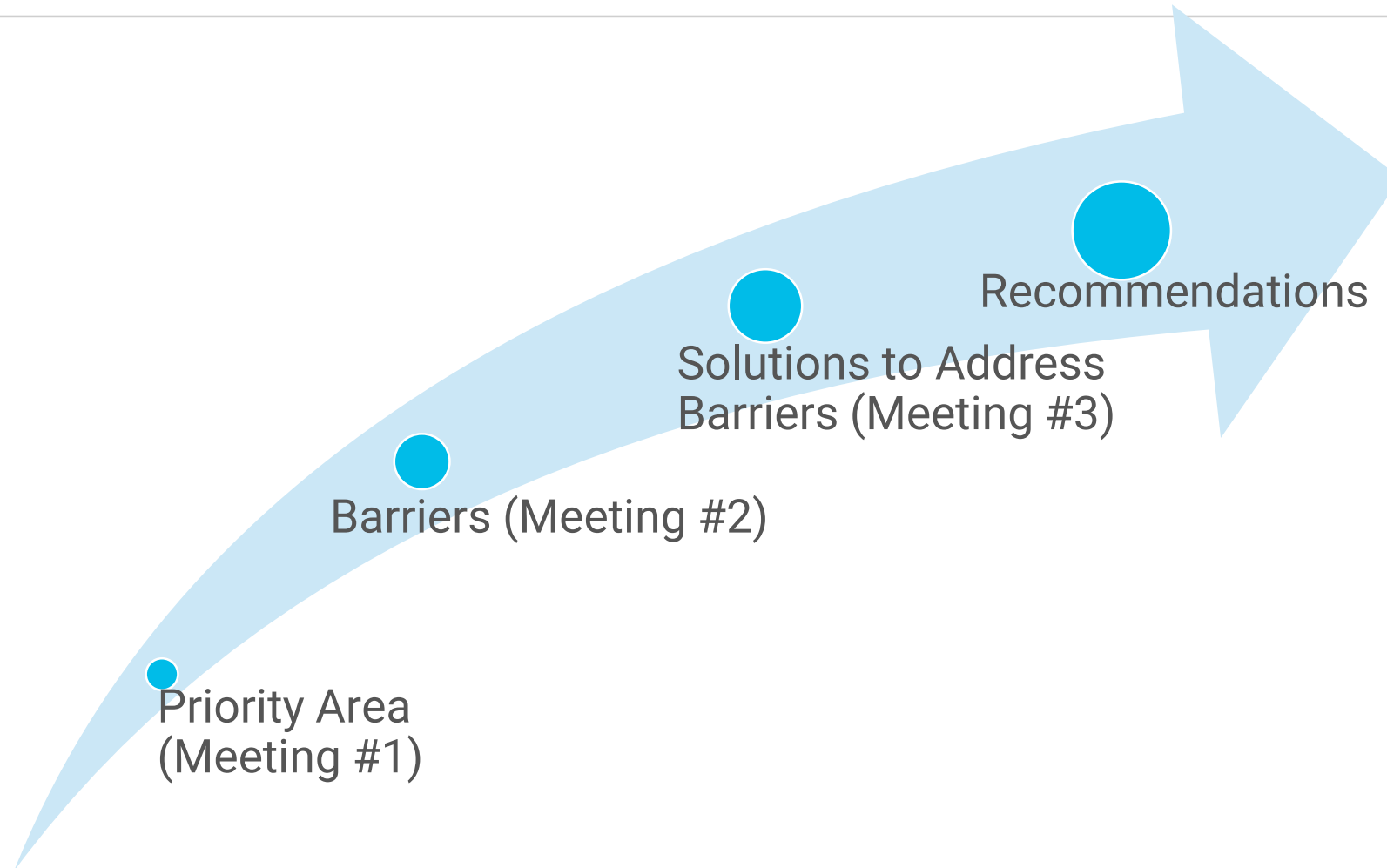
Draft Guiding Principles Meeting 3

1. Prioritize sustainable, climate smart models for the agriculture and forestry sector
2. Prioritize universal broadband and digital equity
3. Bolster rural technical expertise and capacity building
4. Expand opportunities to finance resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements
5. Prioritize Tribal energy sovereignty

Guiding Principles Edits

1. Prioritize sustainable, climate smart business models for the agriculture and forestry sector
2. Prioritize resilient technologies, universal, affordable, reliable high speed broadband, and digital equity for rural communities
3. Expand and support rural technical expertise and capacity building
4. Expand opportunities to finance resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements
5. Ensure the equitable distribution of clean energy projects

In Order to Develop Recommendations, We Reviewed Rural Priorities and Barriers



Rural Community Priorities (Meeting #1)

Priority Area
Agriculture/climate smart agriculture, wood biomass and carbon sequestration
Broadband, digital equity
Clean Energy projects/ Infrastructure
Communities
Economic impacts
Equity
Food security
Health care
Housing
Tribes
Workforce development
Wildfires



Barriers to Meeting the Needs of Rural Communities (Meeting #2)

Score (importance x urgency)	Barrier
1.0	Lack of technical expertise for developing clean energy (projects)
1.1	Aging or inadequate rural infrastructure
1.5	Lack of programs tailored for rural use cases
1.7	Small government and rural community staffing capacity
1.8	Cultural and language barriers
2.1	Lack of workforce in rural areas to build projects
2.6	Access to information
2.9	Lack of access to capital
3.1	Rural utility role, mission and capacity
4.9	Global supply chain/COVID impacts
5.1	Rural communities attitudes (perceived or real)
6.0	Climate policy goals not considering forestry and agriculture industry needs

Example Recommendation

- **Guiding principle:** Prioritize resilient technologies, universal, affordable, reliable high speed broadband and digital equity for rural communities
 1. **Recommendation:** Develop programs and policies that support rural grid modernization and resilience among remote customers   
 - a) **Addresses barrier:** Aging or inadequate rural infrastructure
 - b) **Example strategies, programs and policy mechanisms:** More investments from state and local governments
 - c) **Specific Examples:** Federal Infrastructure package and [Washington State Broadband Office](#) grants and programs
 2. **Recommendation:** Invest in resilient clean energy technologies for critical infrastructure like hospitals and emergency shelters

Breakout Activity



Breakout Room #1

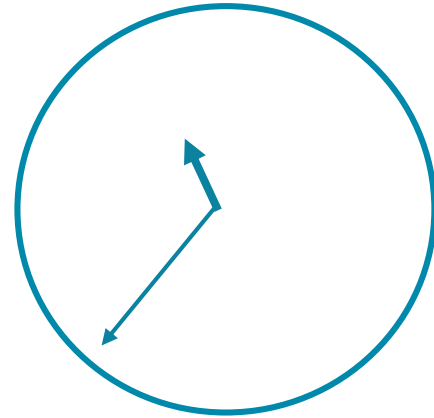
- **Edit guiding principle (80 minutes)**
 - Think, pair share for each principle
 - 1 minute to write notes about principle on own
 - Send away to random pair and chat for 3 minutes
 - Come back and discuss for 10 min (**Please designate a spokesperson!**)
- **Questions:**
 - Is there anything you cannot live with?
 - Is there anything missing?
 - Is there anything that needs clarifying or defining?

Guiding Principles

1. Prioritize sustainable, climate smart business models for the agriculture and forestry sector
2. Prioritize resilient technologies, universal, affordable, reliable high speed broadband, and digital equity for rural communities
3. Expand and support rural technical expertise and capacity building
4. Expand opportunities to finance resilient clean energy projects and infrastructure improvements
5. Ensure the equitable distribution of clean energy projects

Break

- Break ends at 10:40am



Breakout Room #2

- **Round #1: Assigned rooms for each principle to review related recommendations (5 rooms)**
 - Room (15 minutes)
 - Report Back (15 minutes)
- **Round #2: Choose your own room**
 - Room (15 minutes)
 - Report Back (15 minutes)

Questions

- Is there anything you cannot live with?
- Is there anything missing?
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Guiding Principles

1. Prioritize sustainable, climate smart business models for the agriculture and forestry sector
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Next Steps and Reminders

- Steps to complete legislative report
- Opportunities for further input
- Community input
- Actions:
 - Commerce:
 - Distribute summary of meeting notes
 - Post presentation slides and recordings to website
 - Share draft materials
 - Work Group:
 - Send Angela your edits
 - Share public comment form with communities
 - Recommendations for 1:1 interviews

Thank you!

Angela LaSalle

GRANTS MANAGER

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Appendix

